

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Device for implanting at least one row of X radioactive seeds and Y non-radioactive spacers with $X \in [1, 2, \dots]$ and $Y \in [0, 1, \dots]$ in a desired configuration to a desired location in an animal body for effecting radiation therapy of cancerous tissue in said body, said device comprising:

a) at least one elongated hollow needle with an open distal end to be inserted towards said desired location in the body and with a proximal end to be connected to a seed loading apparatus; and

b) at least one tube-shaped sleeve member with an open distal end and an open proximal end to be slidably received within said hollow needle toward said desired location;

b)c) at least one pushing element for implanting during retraction of the elongated hollow needle said row of radioactive seeds and non-radioactive spacers from said seed loading apparatus through said hollow needle and said tube-shaped sleeve member towards said location,

~~characterized in that~~ the device further comprises:

e)d) at least one tube-shaped element with at least one open end to be inserted by said tube-shaped sleeve member through said hollow needle towards said desired location; and

d) ~~at least one tube-shaped sleeve member with an open distal and open proximal end for inserting said tube-shaped element through said hollow needle towards said desired location, wherein~~

~~said tube-shaped element serves to accommodate said row of radioactive seeds and non-radioactive spacers after implantation.~~

2. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein said tube-shaped element is inserted through said hollow needle prior to the insertion of the row of radioactive seeds and non-radioactive spacers.

3. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein said pushing element is constructed as a rigid pushing rod.

4. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein said pushing element is constructed as a drive wire of the seed loading apparatus.

5. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein said tube-shaped sleeve member is provided at its proximal end with a stopper element.

6. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 5, wherein said stopper element is constructed as a disc shaped end plate.

7. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the outer dimensions of the tube-shaped sleeve member and the tube-shaped element are equal or slightly smaller than the inner dimensions of said hollow needle.

8. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the inner dimensions of the tube-shaped sleeve and the tube-shaped element are equal or slightly larger than the outer dimensions of said radioactive seed and non-radioactive spacer,

9. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein
 $l \geq (X + Y)s$ and $S \leq (L - l)$,

in which

- l is the length of the tube-shaped element;
- s is the length of one individual seed/spacer;
- L is the length of the hollow needle;
- S is the length of the tube-shaped sleeve member.

10. Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein said tube-shaped element is made of a bio-absorbable material.

11. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the tube-shaped element has two open ends.

12. (Currently Amended) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the tube-shaped element has one open end, more in particular a closed distal end.

13. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein prior to the insertion through the hollow needle the tube-shaped element has an oval-shaped cross section and a circular cross section when inserted in the hollow needle.

14. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the tube-shaped element has a circular cross section.

15. (Original) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein the tube-shaped element is made of a flexible material for exerting an inwardly directed force on the row of radioactive seeds and non-radioactive spacers.

16. (Currently Amended) Implanting device according to claim 1, wherein at least the open proximal end of said tube-shaped element is collapsable.

17. (Currently Amended) A seed loading apparatus provided with an implanting device according to ~~the invention~~claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A row of X radioactive seeds and Y non-radioactive spacers with $X \in [1, 2, \dots]$ and $Y \in [0, 1, \dots]$ in a desired configuration, wherein said seeds and spacers are accommodated in a tube-shaped element according to ~~the invention~~claim 1.